

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

May 2005



Has Spring sprung?

In March and April, **Adams County**'s unemployment rate fell more slowly than it usually does and it is closer to its typical level than it has been since November. The construction employment estimate is further above its year-ago level than it has been at any point in 2005. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate remains below year-ago levels as it has been since October 2004.

From December through February, **Forest County**'s unemployment rates

were above their typical levels, while March and April rates were below typical levels. The construction employment estimate is as far above its year-ago level as it has been at any point in the last 12 months. Despite rising in April, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate remains almost the same as last April's estimate.

Except for March, no month in the last year has seen a **Langlade County** unemployment rate further below its typical level than April's rate. Despite the April gain the construction employment estimate remains below year-ago levels, much as it has been since November. Last spring saw leisure & hospitality employment estimates well above the previous spring's levels; this spring has not yet shown such growth.

Lincoln County's April unemployment rate was below its typical level, but not as far below as the February and March rates were. Employment esti-

mates for the construction sector and the retail & wholesale trade sector remain below year-ago levels, but less so than they have been for several months. Last May the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 70 jobs or 6.7 percent above level year-ago level; this April the estimate is 20 jobs or 2.2 percent below its year-ago level.

Although not as far below typical as it was in March, **Marathon County**'s April unemployment rate was still in keeping with below-typical rates from

2004, but fell 130 jobs between April 2004 and April 2005. The total nonfarm employment estimate grew 600 jobs or 3.3 percent between April 2003 and April 2004, but shrank 110 jobs or 0.6 percent between April 2004 and April 2005.

Portage County's April unemployment rate is as close to its typical level as it has been at any point in the last twelve months except March. The education & health services employment estimate is as far above its year-ago level

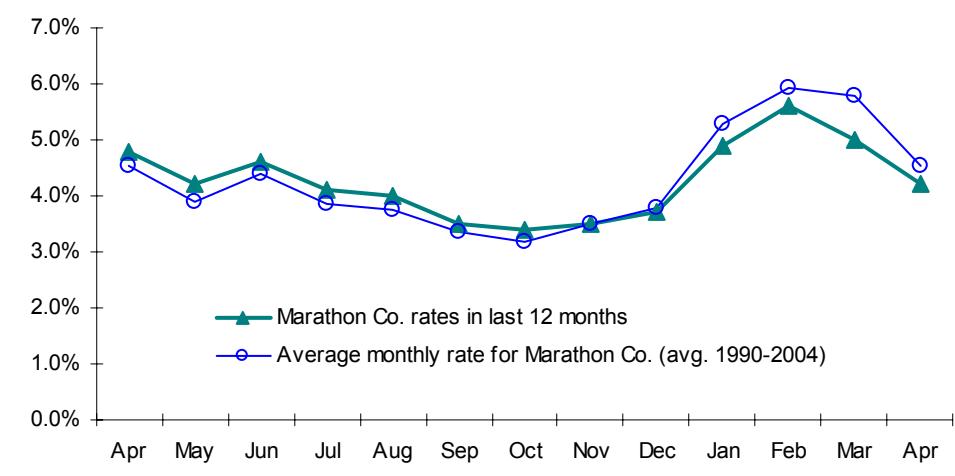
as it has been at any point in the last twelve months. The leisure & hospitality estimate is above its year-ago level for the first time in at least twelve months.

The last two months (March and April) are the only two in at least twelve to see **Vilas County**'s unemployment rate below its typical level.

The manufacturing employment estimate remains below year-ago levels, but less so than at any point in the last 12 months. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate was fairly flat from November 2003 to April 2004 but declined between November 2004 and April 2005.

Wood County's unemployment rate fell more quickly than it usually does in March and April, but remains above its typical level. The transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimate is as high and as far above year-ago levels as it has been at least 12 months. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate is hugging its year-ago levels.

Unemployment rates – not seasonally adjusted



January and February. In April of 2004, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 300 jobs or 5.8 percent above its April 2003 level. In April of 2005, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 400 jobs or 8.3 percent below its April 2004 level. The wholesale trade employment estimate is as far above its year-ago level as it has been at any point in the last 12 months.

Dropping much faster than it usually does in April, **Oneida County**'s unemployment rate was below its typical level for the first time in at least 12 months. The education & health services employment estimate rose 530 jobs or 14.3 percent between April 2003 and April

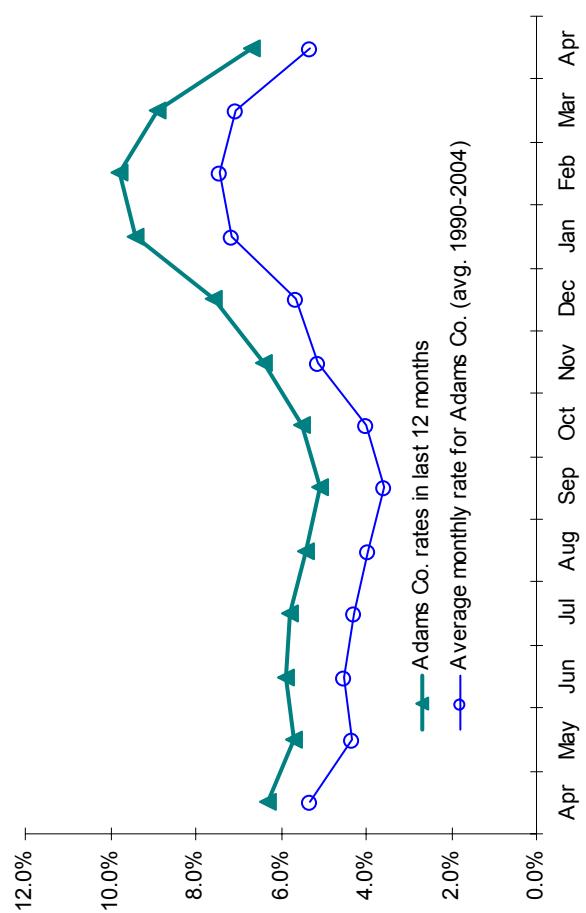
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted															
	Wisconsin			Adams County			Forest County			Langlade County			Lincoln County		
	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,810,300	34,200	26,600	4,200	220	20	3,400	10	-30	7,800	160	60	11,600	220	-150
Const., min'g & nat. resources	130,300	11,800	4,400	240	60	20	120	40	20	380	50	-10	390	80	-10
Manufacturing	498,400	-1,500	2,100	420	10	20	360	0	0	1,600	30	90	3,400	0	-130
Trade (wholesale & retail)	427,300	5,300	3,800	530	50	-10	300	10	0	1,520	20	-10	1,580	40	-20
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	108,300	2,300	2,400	130	0	0	160	0	0	390	10	10	360	-20	0
Financial activities	157,700	300	100	90	0	0	110	0	0	340	0	30	870	10	50
Education & health services	382,900	-1,100	8,100	550	0	10	400	20	0	970	0	0	1,050	-10	-10
Leisure & hospitality	246,800	10,200	4,200	490	50	-60	160	10	-40	770	50	-10	1,010	30	-20
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	435,000	6,300	1,600	450	10	20	210	10	10	720	10	-10	990	40	20
Government	422,600	600	-100	1,260	30	20	1,580	-60	-30	1,160	-10	-30	1,970	40	-20
Civilian Labor Force**	3,032,600	5,300	-13,430	9,300	130	30	4,900	-10	-150	10,700	80	10	15,600	130	-270
Employed	2,888,900	26,700	1,000	8,700	330	-10	4,500	20	-160	10,000	150	120	14,700	240	-260
Unemployed	143,600	-21,380	-14,420	620	-190	50	400	-30	20	680	-70	-110	960	-100	-20
Unemployment rate	4.7%	-0.8%	-0.5%	6.7%	-2.2%	0.4%	8.1%	-0.6%	0.5%	6.4%	-0.7%	-1.0%	6.1%	-0.7%	0.0%
	Marathon County			Oneida County			Portage County			Vilas County			Wood County		
	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	70,400	300	900	17,900	510	-110	34,300	460	460	7,700	170	-150	42,500	560	-120
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,900	200	100	1,230	170	30	1,200	170	50	830	100	30	1,510	110	10
Manufacturing	18,100	0	600	1,290	10	-90	4,600	-20	-210	300	10	-20	6,700	80	-400
Trade (wholesale & retail)	13,200	100	100	4,200	70	110	5,700	-10	180	1,370	40	30	6,000	30	-180
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	2,800	0	100	430	20	0	1,730	60	-40	150	10	10	3,400	100	120
Financial activities	5,000	0	100	530	0	10	4,000	-10	-40	350	0	30	1,220	0	80
Education & health services	7,600	0	300	3,600	-10	-130	3,600	50	270	690	-20	0	10,400	50	240
Leisure & hospitality	4,800	100	-400	2,000	60	50	3,000	170	30	1,340	-30	-140	3,000	170	10
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	7,900	0	-100	2,200	180	20	4,400	10	100	610	30	10	5,000	0	150
Government	8,100	-100	100	2,500	20	-120	6,100	30	130	2,000	30	-110	5,300	10	-150
Civilian Labor Force**	73,000	-190	-520	19,800	210	-350	40,200	120	-330	11,000	180	-190	39,800	-240	-1,150
Employed	70,000	400	-50	18,500	490	-240	38,400	480	30	10,100	250	-110	37,600	400	-890
Unemployed	3,100	-590	-470	1,280	-270	-110	1,860	-360	-370	850	-70	-70	2,200	-640	-260
Unemployment rate	4.2%	-0.8%	-0.6%	6.5%	-1.4%	-0.4%	4.6%	-0.9%	-0.9%	7.8%	-0.7%	-0.5%	5.6%	-1.6%	-0.5%

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

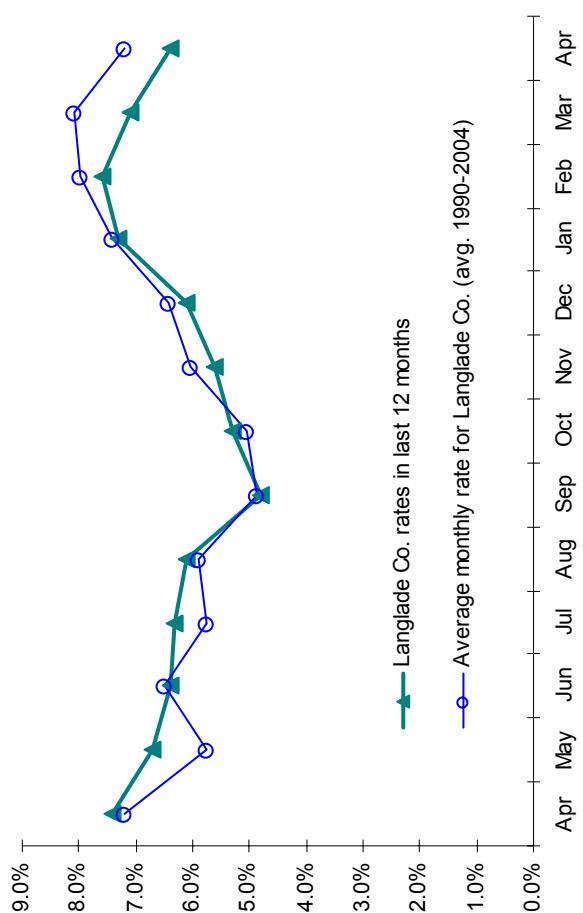
*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4385, email dan.barnette@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oef>.

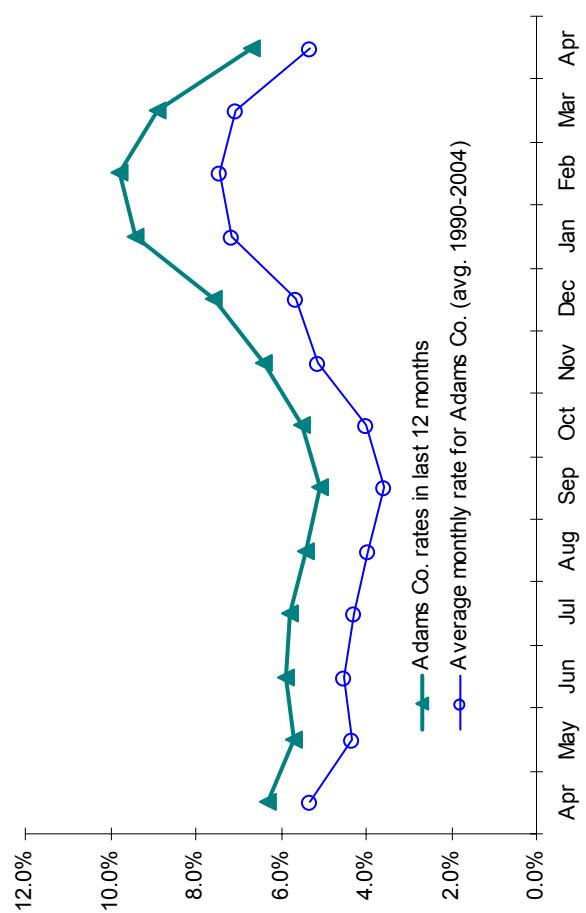
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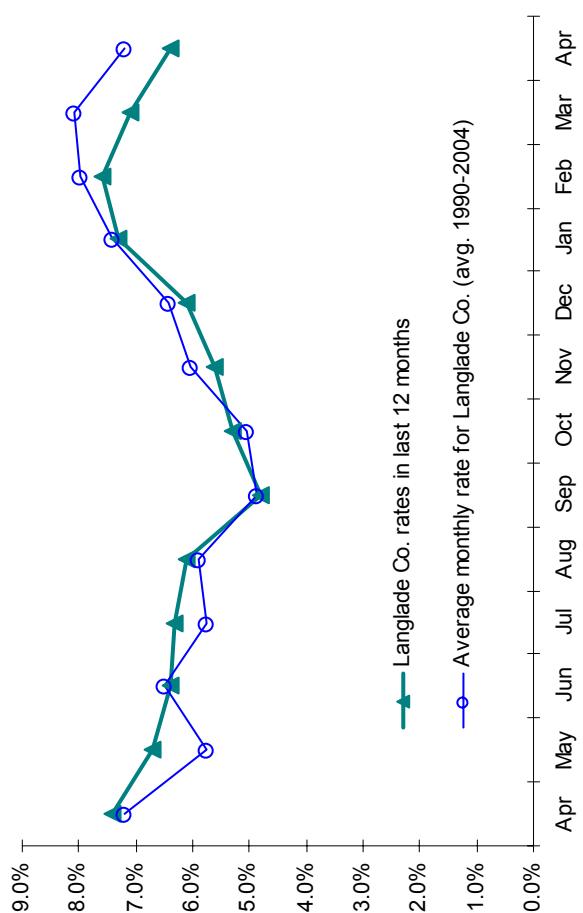
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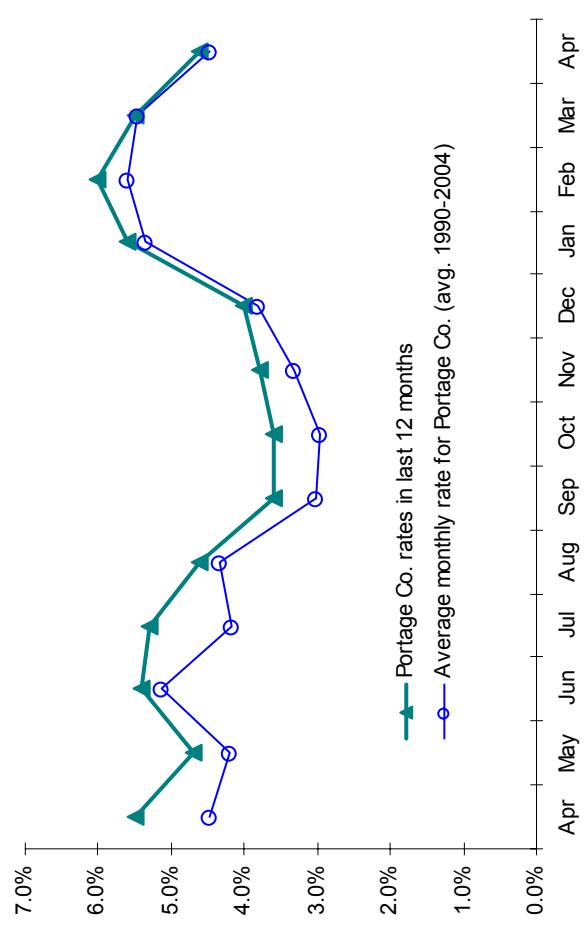
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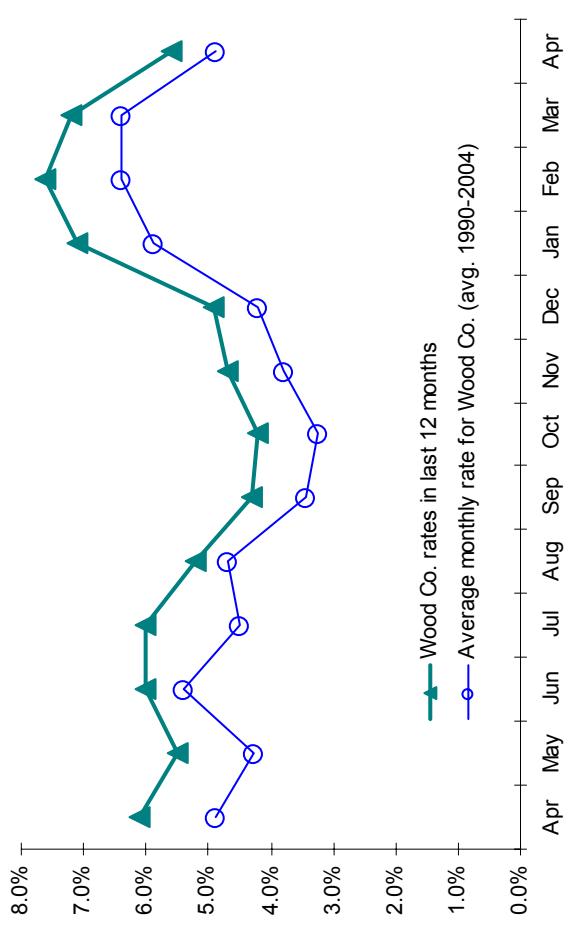
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